

Cell Phone Tour Scripts – Individual Stop Scripts

Version: Spring 2014

General Greeting

Welcome to the Flight 93 National Memorial Cell Phone Tour. Tour stops are indicated by signs throughout the park. Stops range from under a minute to approximately 5 minutes. If you have a smart phone, you can explore the memorial's mobile website by scanning QR (Quick Response) codes on these signs. To leave feedback, press *0. Thank you again for visiting Flight 93 National Memorial.

Cultivating a Living Memorial – Plant-a-Tree Tour Stop 702

"The creation of a thousand forests is in one acorn" Ralph Waldo Emerson

Big things begin in small ways. The open rolling grasslands that surround you are not natural to the Alleghenies, but the end result of years of surface mining and reclamation. There are similarly impacted landscaped all across Appalachia, but people are working together to aid in the renewal of these lands. Through Plant-a-Tree at Flight 93, the National Park Service and its partners are working both to be part of this greater effort and to create a living memorial landscape.

One of best ways to heal reclaimed surface mines is with trees. Trees help build up topsoil and minimize soil erosion. They remove carbon dioxide from the air and create habitats for wildlife. Trees process pollutants and provide windbreaks. The long term result is the re-establishment of forest habitat through natural succession. By the end of this, the third year of Plant-a-Tree at Flight 93, over 1,800 volunteers of all ages and backgrounds will have helped to plant over 60,000 seedlings across 73 acres of former surface coal mine.

In the fall, the planting fields are ripped or furrowed up by a bulldozer to help the trees roots to establish. Then in late April, planting teams lead by tree experts fan out across the acres and by hand, plant soft and hardwood trees including blight resistant American Chestnuts. Once covering much of the Appalachia, blight wiped out the American Chestnut approximately 100 years ago. Blight-resistant seedlings will hopefully bring the species back to the mountains. Each of these seedlings is small, and it will be years before they grow tall, but each tree that is planted helps to heal this land and plays a part in this greater effort to reforest Appalachia one seedling at a time. Planters in the past have recorded the GPS coordinates of the trees they planted, with the hopes of returning to find those trees grown tall and strong. Every volunteer is contributing to this effort of renewal and healing, adding to a living memorial landscape designed to honor the passengers and crew of Flight 93.